

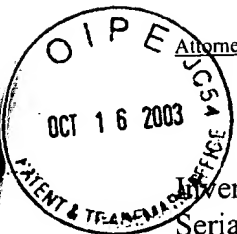
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE


Inventor: Harald HOEPPNER, et al.
Serial No.: 09/938,957
Filed: August 24, 2001
Title: METHOD OF PRODUCING...
Examiner: Alicia Ann Chevalier
Art Unit: 1772

October 16, 2003

Director of the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of documents listed thereon. These documents contain information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to any action having the effect of closing prosecution in the present application, \$180.00 accompanies this document in accordance with 37CFR §§1.97(c) and 1.17(p).

Also attached is a copy of an International Search Report dated May 5, 2000 from the corresponding International Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the International Search Report.

As one of these documents is written in a language other than English, an English Language abstract is annexed thereto explaining its relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to

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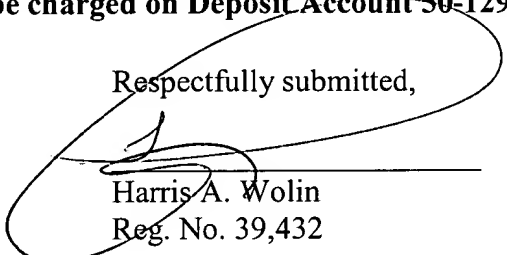
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allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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U.S. Department of Commerce

Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 09/938,957

Filing Date : August 24, 2001

First Named Inventor: H. HOEPPNER

Group Art Unit : 1772

Examiner Name : A.A. CHEVALIER

Attorney Docket No. : BDR 20.411

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | Kind Code if known ² | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|--|--|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source. | Applicant check her if English language translation attached |
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁶ if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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